

Please cancel Claims 3-10, 12-13 and 15-26 and amend Claim 1, 2 and 11 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A magnetic head comprising:

a slider; and

a magnetic element disposed on an end face of the slider in the trailing side for writing and/or reading,

wherein a plurality of ABS faces are formed on a surface of the slider facing a recording medium so as to rise toward the recording medium and be at the same level as each other, the plurality of ABS faces serving to generate positive pressure, [and]

wherein a surface facing having the element is formed on the ABS face in the trailing side so as to further rise toward the recording medium, and a gap portion of the magnetic element is located on the surface facing having the element, and

wherein between a leading edge of the trailing ABS face and the surface facing the recording medium, a step face having a height lower than that of the ABS face is formed.

2. (Currently Amended) A magnetic head according to Claim 1, wherein when the height from the surface facing the recording medium to the trailing ABS face is h_1 and the height from the trailing ABS face to the surface facing having the element is h_2 , the ratio h_2/h_1 is at least 0.4% and 2.5% at most.

3 – 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A magnetic head according to Claim 1, wherein the surface facing having the recording medium extends between the ABS faces and both side faces of the slider.

12 - 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A magnetic head apparatus comprising:
a magnetic head according to Claim 1; and
a supporting member for elastically supporting the magnetic head from the
side opposite to the surface facing the recording medium.

15-26. (Cancelled)